

**GREATER DETROIT  
RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

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Dear Chairman Frank Accavitt and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority (GDRRA), I am writing today to support of the inclusion of waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities in the renewable portfolio standard being discussed.


While the GDRRA supports the committee's efforts to establish a statewide Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), it is vitally important that the RPS being developed include waste-to-energy facilities as a defined renewable eligible to participate in the program.

Waste-to-energy is the only renewable energy technology that provides communities with dual environmental benefits: a clean source of electricity and clean trash disposal. Since 1991, the GDRRA WTE facility has been an important component in an integrated solid waste management system that serves the city of Detroit and efficiently disposes of 850,000 tons of municipal solid waste per year. This WTE facility generates as much as 68 megawatts of renewable energy which is sold to Detroit Edison. Maybe even more important is the fact that this facility has the capacity to export up to 550,000 pounds per hour of steam into the city's downtown steam loop for heating and cooling purposes. Without the steam produced from the GDRRA facility, point sources would have to provide for their own steam generation at a much greater environmental and financial cost.

Waste-to-energy facilities reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease our dependence on fossil fuel sources, prevent environmental damage from landfills and provide reliable renewable energy. Every ton of waste combusted in a WTE facility offsets one ton of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere by displacing fossil fuels and preventing methane from landfills. That same ton processed at a WTE facility allows us to avoid the need to import one barrel of oil or mine one quarter ton of coal.

The state of Michigan currently recognizes WTE as a renewable energy source. We strongly urge the committee to include this renewable source as it defines those sources to include in its' Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Prymack  
Director